



# NEWSLETTER

of the  
HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

143 N. MAIN STREET,  
BEL AIR, MD 21014

<http://www.rtis.com/reg/md/org/hcgs/>

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## NOVEMBER 2006

### NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: Sunday, 19-Nov-2006 Time: 2:00 PM

Place: The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.

143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

#### **Program:**

This is the annual fall meeting when the election of officers and board members are to take place, as established in The Harford County Genealogy Society constitution and by-laws. Officers and board members serve for two year terms, which expire at the end of 2006. The positions of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and three board members will be voted on at this meeting. The nominating committee has recommended the following slate of officers and board members to serve for 2007 and 2008:

President: Arch Phillips

Vice President: Jon Livezey

Treasurer: Doug Washburn

Secretary: Gwen Poole

Board of Advisors: Claire Blackmer, Henry Peden, Mary White

Additional nominations can be made by members from the floor, with prior consent of the nominees. Each attending member will have one vote.

There will be no speaker this month. After the business meeting, members will be free to use the Historical Society facilities for research. Take advantage of this opportunity to work on your family genealogy. Our knowledgeable members in attendance will be happy to assist you, if needed.

## Meeting Schedule: (Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov)

Five meetings per year usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday @ 2:00 PM, at the Historical Society of Harford County, 143 Main St., Bel Air, MD. The July meeting is a box lunch held at various locations in Harford County.

### Harford County Genealogy Email List:

To correspond: Use MDHARFOR-L@rootsweb.com

For service: Use [MDHARFOR-L-REQUEST@rootsweb.com](mailto:MDHARFOR-L-REQUEST@rootsweb.com)

To subscribe: Send service email with "subscribe" in the message subject and body.

To unsubscribe: Send service email with "unsubscribe" in the message subject and body.

**From the President:** The transcription of nearly 500 pages from the *J. C. Taylor Marble Works Business Ledgers* has begun. The Ledgers have been photographed, instructions and templates have been created, and significant transcription progress has already been made. You may recall from previous *Newsletters* that, from his business in District-4's Jarrettsville, Mr. Taylor provided his products and services in multiple counties in both Maryland and Pennsylvania. The records we intend to publish span some 50 years starting in 1878. To provide some insight as to the usefulness of the effort, I thought it would good to provide some samples of the types of entries we are finding.

**STUMP:** Headstones cleaned for Judge Stump and new posts put under Tomb at old family Archer & Stump burying ground below Churchville June 1927 65.00 Paid by Judge Stump & D. Archer 65.00 *{explains why you can not find the marker in a traditional cemetery / graveyard AND provides at least a general location of the family plot}*

**BUTLER:** Joseph Wilbert and Bertha Stifler Butler's headstone was put up at Norrisville Cemetery Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 1928 ordered by W. L. Reynolds 3916 Packard Ave, Balto, Md (FANNIE BAY STONE) 150.00 Paid Feb 11<sup>th</sup> 1928 150.00 *{provides wife's maiden name AND unusual to get a specific street address}*

**YOUNG:** John Young's Granite head stone was put up April 19<sup>th</sup> 1935 Old Baptist Church Jarrettsville MD ordered by Mrs John Young, Bel Air, MD this was old stone at a reduced price 60.00 Paid May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1935 60.00 *{this is the more typical entry but includes the tidbit about the "reduced price"}*

This effort should generate multiple HCGS Special Publications starting in 2007. Once we have a better grasp on the total size with an index, the board will decide how to split and best publish the data. *Doug*

### From the Editor:

I had the pleasure of corresponding with Gertrude Stephens last month to get permission to extract some quotes from her book *Children of Mt. Soma*, a genealogy of the Amos family in Harford County. Gertrude still lives in Spanish Fort, AL and takes great prides in the Civil War history of the town. Her book is one of the best I've run across. While it is about the Amos family, she has included some good background material like The Story of Maryland, The First Parishes

of the Province of Md. (with maps), Joppa Md. - St John's Parish, St John's and St Georges Parishes, Old Baltimore - Foster's Neck Joppa, and the Association of Freemen, from a variety of sources. To produce this impressive work, Gertrude made three two-week trips to Harford County and she expressed her gratitude to the volunteers at HSHC, especially Margaret "Peggy" Bishop "that always came thorough with lots of help to me." When I asked Gertrude for permission, she said "By all means, use whatever will benefit researchers and interested people from *Children of Mt. Soma*." She also sent a copy of the 700 page supplement to her original book, for our library at HSHC. She is on our email list and sends an email from time to time. If you remember Gertrude and would like to correspond with her, let me know and I'll give you her address or email address. If you have not checked *Children of Mt. Soma*, I suggest you take a look at the 167 page index. It contains about 6,000 surnames; I found 38 Gorrells listed. There is a copy in the genealogy library at HSHC.

I have revised the format and look of the newsletter. Information about your society is first; contact info, meeting info & schedule, email list info, messages from the president and from me, then news about the society. Next you will find info about the HSHC, followed by local genealogy events, then some info about nearby resources, and the last section is for my monthly genealogy feature. I put some thought into this format and it makes logical sense to me. Change is not easy for any of us, and it takes me a while to get used to them. Give yourself a chance to get used to it, and then if you have suggestions, I welcome them.

If you have comments, stories, experiences, advice, tips, newsletter feedback, etc., please let me know. I have not received one email, letter or phone call from our members.

**If you have had DNA reports produced, I would like very much to see them at the November meeting.**

From *Children of Mt. Soma*:

Genealogists' Correspondence (from the *Salt Lake Tribune*):

- I've looked for Grandpa for 20 years. Do you have him in your library?
- Please help me; I've tried unsuccessfully to trace my backward family.
- I am mailing you my aunt and uncle and three of their children.
- Would it be possible to send me copies of my ancestors?
- We have a hard time finding the records that haven't been kept.

*Ken*

## **Society News:**

**PLEASE NOTE OUR ADDRESS CHANGE** (We no longer have the post office box).  
**ALL SOCIETY MAIL SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

Harford County Genealogical Society, 143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014.

**The Harford County Stud Book:** (continued from September)

For some Gorrells I found as little as:

James L Gorrell, owner of Glencoe, obtained an exhibition license 5 May 1869.

But for others:

Bonfield Gorrell, being compelled to relinquish farming due to ill health, and having rented his farm, will sell at public sale March 19, 1895, at his residence near Level, one Hambletonian and one Almont colt. WS Bowman auctioneer.

Surname Index: (1 or more references)

ABERNATHY, ADY, ALLEN, ALLIBONE, ALMONY, AMOS, ANDERSON, ANDREW, ARCHER, ARMSTRONG, ARTHUR, ASHTON, ATKINS, AYERS, BADDERS, BAILEY, BAIRD, BAKER, BALDWIN, BALL, BANKS, BARBEN, BARBER, BARNES, BARTENSCHLAGER, BARTON, BATTERS, BAUER, BAVINGTON, BAY, BAYLESS, BEATTY, BELL, BENNETT, BENSON, BERKELEY, BERRY, BEVARD, BIDDERS, BILAS, BOISSEL, BOND, BONNER, BOOTH, BOULDIN, BOWEN, BOWIE, BOWMAN, BOXWELL, BRADENBAUGH, BRADFORD, BRADLEY, BRADSHAW, BRAMBLE, BROWN, BRUNS, BUCHANAN, BURBANK, BURKINS, BURNS, BUTLER, BYRD, CADWALADER, CAIN, CAIRNES, CALDER, CALLAHAN, CAMPBELL, CAMMELL, CAMPBELL, CARCAUD, CARROLL, CARSIN, CATHCART, CHALK, CHAMBERLAINE, CHANLEY, CHAUNCEY, CHENWORTH, CHESNEY, CLARKE, CLAYMAN, CLAYTON, CLEMENT, CLERMONT, COALE, COCHRAN, COCKEY, COOK, COONEY, CORBITT, CRABB, CRAWFORDCRESWELL, CREVENSTEN, CRONIN, CROPPER, CULLUM, CUMMINS, DALLAM, DALTON, DARBIE, DAY, DECKMAN, DELCAMP, DELEVITT, DEMOSS, DENBOW, DESWAN, DEVER, DIETRICH, DIVERS, DODSON, DORSON, DOSWELL, DOYLE, DREXLER, DUHAYS, DYMCK, EDGE, EICHELBERGER, ELBTHAL, ELY, EMORY, EMRICH, ENGLAND, EWING, FAHNEY, FARNANDIS, FAWCETT, FEAR, FELTON, FENDALL, FEW, FICKEY, FIFE, FISHEL, FITZPATRICK, FLAHARTY, FLOWERS, FOLEY, FORD, FORSYTHE, FORWARD, FOSS, FOUST, FRITZ, FRY, FULFORD, GALBREATH, GALLION, GALLOWAY, GALLUP, GARRETT, GARRISON, GEMMILL, GILBERT, GLADDEN, GLENN, GLENVILLE, GOOD, GORRELL, GOVER, GOWAN, GRAFF, GREENLAND, GREENWAY, GREENWOOD, GREY, GRIER, GRIFFITH, GROSS, GROVE, GUNTHER, GUYTON, HAINES, HAMED, HANNA, HANSON, HANWAY, HARDING, HARKINS, HARLAN, HARWARD, HAVILAND, HAWKINS, HAYGHE, HAYS, HEAPS, HERBERT, HESS, HEWITT, HICKSON, HIGLE, HILDT, HILL, HITCHCOCK, HOFFMAN, HOLLINGSWORTH, HOLLIS, HOLLOWAY, HOOPES, HOPKINS, HOPPS, HORN, HOSKINS, HUGHES, HULL, HUNT, HUTCHINS, HUTTON, INGLE, IVINS, JACKSON, JAMES, JANNEY, JARRETT, JENIFER, JENKINS, JERVIS, JEWETT, JOHNSON, JONES, JORDAN, KEECH, KEEN, KELLER, KELLY, KENLY, KIMMELL, KINCAID, KINEHART, KITCHEN, KNIGHT, LAMUS, LANGDON, LAWDER, LAY, LEE, LEWIN, LITTLE, LLOYD, LOCKER LOCKARD, LOGAN, LORILLARD, LOVE, LUDLOW, LUDWICK, LYLE, LYNCH, MABBETT, MAGAW, MAGRAW, MANN, MARKLAND, MARLBOROUGH, MARTENET, MARTIN, MATTHEWS, MAXWELL, MCABEE, MCCANN, MCCAUSLAND, MCCOMAS, MCCORMICK, MCCOURTNEY, MCCURDY, MCDOWELL, MCGAW, MCGUIGAN, MCHENRY, MCNABB, MCNUTT, MICHAEL, MILLER, MILTON, MINOT, MISKIMMON, MITCHELL., MONGAR, MONTGOMERY, MONTOUTH, MOORE, MOORES, MOREAN, MORGAN, MORRISON, MUNNIKHUYSEN, NELSON, NORRIS, OSBORN, OWENS, OWINGS, PALMER, PANNELL, PARKER, PATTERSON, PAYNE, PENNINGTON, PERRYMAN, PFEFFER, PLEASANTS, POLLARD, POOLE, POTEET, POWELL, PRESS, PRESTON, PRICE, PRIGG, PROCTOR, PYLE, QUARLES, QUINN, RAMPLEY, RAMSAY, RAWHAUSER, REKORD, REDDING, REMBOLD, REYNOLDS, RICHARDSON, RIGDON, ROBINSON, ROE, ROGERS, RUFF, RUTLEDGE,

SAPPINGTON, SCARBOROUGH, SCARFF, SCHIRLING, SCHOFIELD, SCOTT, SELLERS, SENICKS, SHANANHAN, SHAY, SHRIVER, SHERTZER, SHURTZER, SLADE, SLICER, SMITH, SMITHSON, SPENCER, SPICER, STANDIFORD, STANSBURY, STERNS, STEPHENS, STEPHENSON, STEWAET, STIFFLER, STOCKHAM, STOCKSDALE, STOUT, STRAWBRIDGE, STREET, STRETT, STUBBS, STUMP, SWARTS, SWEETING, SYMINGTON, TAYLOR, TAYSON, TENANT, TERRY, THOMPSON, TIMMONS, TIPTON, TODD, TOLLEY, TOWNER, TREADWELL, TREDICK, TREDWAY, TREDWELL, TROUT, TUCKER, TURNER, TYSON, VANBIBBER, VANNORT, VOCLÉ, WADDS, WALBECK, WALDON, WALKER, WALTEN, WALTER, WARD, WARNER, WATERS, WATKINS, WATTERS, WATTS, WAY, WEBB, WEBSTER, WELLS, WELSH, WEST, WHEELER, WHITAKER, WHITEFORD, WHITELOCK, WILDFELL, WILEY, WILKINSON, WILLIAMS, WILLIS, WILNA, WILSON, WINANS, WINDOLPH, WOODWARD, WRIGHT, WROTH, YELLOTT, YOUNG.

**I'll have the *Harford County Stud Book* and a copy of the *Baltimore Sun* article of July 23, 2006 at the November meeting.** *Ken*

### **The Historical Society of Harford County: (HSHC)**

143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014, 410.838.7691, [www.harfordhistory.net](http://www.harfordhistory.net),  
email: [HARCHIS@msn.com](mailto:HARCHIS@msn.com), queries and inquires to Doris Barben.

A good genealogist is a full time detective, a thorough historian, an inveterate snoop, and at the same time a confirmed diplomat, a keen observer, a hardened skeptic, an apt biographer, a qualified linguist, a part time lawyer, combined with quite a lot of district attorney, a studious sociologist, and above all, an accurate reporter who recognizes his duty to search out and record the truth. --Thel W Williams (from *Children of Mt. Soma*)

### **Genealogy Happenings:**

#### Virginia Beach 2007 Celebration – Ancestral Family Reunion Gatherings

Date: Apr 26-29, 2007 (Thr-Sun)

Place: Virginia Beach, VA

For details: [www.VB2007.com](http://www.VB2007.com)

A celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the first permanent English settlers in the New World (Jamestown settlers first landed at Virginia Beach). Activities will include a reenactment of the first landing, exploration of the Lynnhaven River, boardwalk history festival, erection of a cross, departure of the three ships and salute to the military. For help organizing a family reunion during the celebration, contact the Historical Family Reunion Committee via email to [VB2007@cox.net](mailto:VB2007@cox.net).

On September 9th I attended the Family History and Genealogy Workshop held at the Baltimore Maryland Stake Family History Center, commonly known as the LDS center, in Essex. Unfortunately I became aware of the event too late to include the information in our newsletter. I believe the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints holds this workshop annually in the fall. The day began at 8:00am with registration, opening exercises and a keynote speaker, then classes began at 10:00am. Each class was 50 minutes long and the last one ended at 3:50pm. The event was free and you had an opportunity to attend six out of 61 classes, covering traditional

family research, computer tools and sources, sources in Washington, Maryland, Pennsylvania, other areas of the U.S. and some international sources. Several names familiar to me were Jeff Korman and Robert Barnes. Jeff talked about beginning research, beginning Maryland research and research at the Enoch Pratt Library. Robert talked about Maryland church and probate records, newspaper sources in the states around Maryland, Ireland and Scotland, and newspaper databases, as well as sources at the Maryland Historical Society. The event was very well organized and presented a lot of valuable information. In a future issue I will share some of the more interesting things I learned. If you have an opportunity to attend one of these workshops in the future, I highly recommend them. I'll bring a binder to the November meeting that contains a list of classes offered and the handouts from them.

This is a story (as best I can remember it) told by keynote speaker D. Joshua Taylor, a young researcher, relatively new to genealogy. His talk was titled "Discovering the People Your Ancestors Were." Joshua has an aunt that takes great pride in her family history and the associated family stories. This aunt is responsible for planting the genealogy seed in his brain. Among the things his aunt had accumulated was a picture of the residence of some ancestors that lived in Connecticut. This home was very large and the architecture led the descendants to believe that this branch of the family may have owned large tracts of land, run a successful business, had servants and wealth and were highly respected in their community. Joshua wanted to know more about these ancestors. They could add much interest and respect to his family history, so he made a trip to Connecticut. After some dedicated research and trips into the Connecticut county side, he was able to locate the home. Then with the help of some local historical societies and residents of the area, he was shocked to learn that this fine ancestral family home was actually an insane asylum. That's what makes this hobby so interesting; you just never know where it will take you and what you will find.

This seems like a good place to insert one of Gertrude's quotations. From *Children of Mt. Soma*: Not all genealogists will admit it, even when faced with the facts, but almost every family has an ancestor, probably several ancestors, of whom they are not overly proud. However, be it remembered, none of us is descended from other than a line of culpable human beings. To disown the scoundrels and otherwise undesirable ancestors is to make a distorted family history. --Copied.

### **Genealogy Resources:**

A man has to live with himself, and he should see to it that he is always in good company. -- Charles Evans Hughes (from *Children of Mt. Soma*)

### **Genealogy Feature: (DNA loose ends from September)**

<http://www.ancestry.e-symposium.com/programme.php> - DNAPrint Genomics' Ancestry e-Symposium of 7/19/2006, now available for streaming or downloading. Requires registration & should have a broadband connection. Doug

The following from Baltimore County Historical Society *Notebook*, article by *Herb Franz*.

Famous DNA Test:

“Famous DNA” is a section of a web site operated by the International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG). It lists mtDNA Haplogroup and mtDNA sequences for famous people in history. By comparing the numbers against your own, it is possible to see if you are closely related to these people. “Closeness” is a relative term; it might be close if the most recent common ancestor was within the past ten or twenty generations.

Details at: <http://www.isogg.org/famousdna.htm>.

DNA-Newbie Group – <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DNA-NEWBIE>

Compare your DNA results, generate reports, by Family Tree DNA - <http://ysearch.org/>

On-line Journal of Genetics & Genealogy - <http://jgg-online.blogspot.com/>

### **Genealogy Feature:** Court Records at the Historical Society of Harford County

As I mentioned in the September Newsletter, I am very impressed with the court records I've seen at the HSHC. There is a dedicated group of volunteers that have accomplished impressive results. This is a long term project and much has been accomplished, but there is much to do. These records are unique and span a period in Harford County history that has left little in the way of documentation about the everyday lives of the people that lived there. The records go back to 1773, with most in the 1800s and the variety of record types boggles the mind. They have account books, alienation docketts, assessments, bonds, chattels, conveyances, docketts, voting lists, judgments, imparlances, jury lists, minutes, poll books, clerk of the court receipts, tax assessments, arrest warrants, and many others. I have no idea what many of these records are about and I have much to learn about the court systems of Maryland and Harford County, but from what I've seen so far, I believe this is a very valuable, under utilized resource. As I learn more about the courts and these records, I will pass it along to you.

Here is what I can tell you so far. There are 90 card file drawers, each with about 400-500 index cards containing key information for the documents processed so far. Most drawers contain cards for individuals, but there is one drawer for land tract names, one for business/jury/misc. names, two for Negro names and two for occupations.

In the business/jury/misc. drawer I found references to bonds, businesses, currency, canals, deeds, estates, ferries, indentures, islands, judgments, jurors, kidnappings, permits, petitions, ports, roads, ships, sloops, signatures, wills and witnesses. These are samples: 1) About the company of Johnson, Parker and Smith in 1831. 2) About the McComas sawmill in 1793. 3) About Thomas Russell and Company in 1787. 4) About John Wilson and Company debt in 1775. 5) About a 1782 petition for a road from the mill on Winter's Run to Bush Town then to the Quaker Meeting House.

In the Negro drawers I found many cards with just a first name, but many others with first and last names. These are samples from the manumission papers section: 1) Abraham 1790-4, age 5 months, valued at 5 pounds, son of Jude (Judea), owned by John Cretin. 2) Jude (Judea) 1790-4, vs. John Cretin, Sr. and John, his son. Many papers related to the appraisal of slaves. 3) Jude 1790-4, age 21, valued at 50 pounds, had children Abraham and Jacob. 4) Jude, 1793, writ of

replegiando. Children of Jude, Abraham, and Betsy. 5) Adam, 1784, presentment, State of Maryland vs. free Negro Phyllis. Theft of one goard of hog fat from free Negro Adam, formerly property of William Wilson. 6) Ben Bond, 1789, tax insolvents. 7) Mary Bradford, 1781, State of Maryland vs. Mary Bradford, mulatto, testifier Rachel Everit, bastardy. 8) Jacob Butler, 1808, suing for freedom on grounds he was a free man being descended from \_\_\_\_\_ Bradford, a free white woman who came to this country as an indentured servant. All other descendants have obtained their freedom.

In the individual drawers I found over 80 Gorrell records, some going back to 1773 and 1777. The names are familiar ones and I hope these court records will help clear up some of the questions I and other Gorrell researchers have about these early settlers. One in particular, Isabellah, is a very popular subject among researchers I'm in contact with. We believe she came to Philadelphia from Ireland about 1768 as an indentured servant. Then came to Harford County, appearing in the 1776 census with 7 children. The 1783 tax list was the last record of her until I found her named in an 1803 court record which I found at HSHC.

I believe these court records were acquired for the HSHC about 30 years ago and that Jon Livezey was instrumental in obtaining them. I haven't had a chance to talk to Jon about this, so I'll have more about this later.

So, I hope by now you are getting a sense of the genealogical value of these records, not to mention their historical value. These records give you an insight into the everyday activities our ancestors, from when Harford County was established, into the late 1800s and beyond.

When you go to the HSHC on any Tuesday between 10:00am and 2:30pm, here's what you will experience. One of the very knowledgeable volunteers will ask if they can assist you. They will show you the court record index card file cabinet and be happy to answer any questions you may have. Once you look through the cards and jot down the file numbers you are interested in, the records will be pulled and brought to you for inspection. These are original documents, so please handle them carefully because some are very fragile. If you would like copies of the documents, the volunteers will make them for a small fee. I suggest that you request only about a half dozen at a time because most of them are multi-page, and until you get used to the lingo, they can be slow reading.

Clair Blackmer is chairman of the Court Record Library. Volunteers are Margaret "Peggy" Bishop, Lydia Di Stefano, Kathryn Keen, Roberta Kimble, Elizabeth Kruger, Mary Jane Weeks, and Alice Williams. We really owe a great debt of gratitude to these volunteers for their dedication for so many years. If you are as impressed with the results as I am, give them a hearty "Thank you for your service." I'm sure they'll appreciate it.